Jowar to figure high on T’s seed export plans

Times News Network

Hyderabad: The state government, along with a clutch of agricultural research institutes, will soon set up a specialized facility to help farmers develop and export quality jowar seeds from the state.

The facility, Seed Export Accelerator (SEA) and Sorghum Export Development Platform (SEDP) will be set up with the support of ICRISAT and other Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institutes such as International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

A strategy to increase the production of jowar and ensure availability of quality seed for the crop was discussed at a recent meeting by the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) here earlier this week.

The SEA will work with farmer-producer organisations, multinational corporations, and small and medium enterprises to provide key services such as access to new hybrids/varieties of seeds, market and policy information, export market linkages, financial assistance and quality control, enable the strengthening of Seeds Export Promotion Zones and establish testing and certification facilities in conformity with international standards.

The state government also proposes to encourage setting up of food processing parks in Nizamabad, Khammam, Medak and Ranga Reddy districts of Telangana and hopes that jowar would be one of the crops that such industries can use.

Telangana agriculture minister Pocharam Srinivas Reddy told at the meeting that the government was committed to develop the state as a seed bowl for the country. Such initiatives will help farmers have greater access to quality seeds and will also improve their financial condition, the minister told the ‘Enhancing exports of sorghum and seeds from India’ organised by the ICRISAT Agribusiness Incubation Program.